(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, the issue of cross border terrorism was raised with the President of Pakistan during his visit to New Delhi in April, 2005.

Medical Visa

1832. SHRI R.S. GAVAI:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to grant 'Medical Visa' to foreigners visiting the country for medical treatment;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what safeguards are taken to ensure that the 'Medical Visa' is not misused, particularly for anti-national activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Instructions have been issued on 21.06.2005 to all Indian Missions/Posts abroad regarding introduction of a new category of visa called 'Medical Visa' (M-Visa) to the foreigners coming to India for medical treatment in reputed/ recognised/specialized hospitals/treatment centres in India.

Indian Missions/Posts abroad, on receipt of such applications from foreigners for Medical Visa, are required to scrutinize the medical documents very carefully and satisfy themselves about the bonafide purpose for which the visa is being requested. The initial period for such a visa has been kept as one year or for the period of treatment whichever is less. The period of such visa can be extended for further one year by the Foreigners Regional Registration Officers (FRROs)/State Governments on production of medical certificate/advice from the reputed/recognized/specialized hospitals/medical centres, where the treatment is being taken. Any further extension will be granted by the Ministry of Home Affairs only on the recommendations of the State Governments/FRROs supported by appropriate medical documents.

A Medical Visa will be valid for three entries during a year. Foreigners coming to India on Medical visa will be required to register themselves within a period of 14 days from the date of arrival. The Medical Visa has the provision for grant of Entry Visa to the attendants, who are family members (not more than two at a time), co-terminus with the duration of Medical Visa.

The provisions of careful initial scrutiny of applications and registration within fourteen days from arrival, so that the activities could be monitored by local police, would serve as safeguard against any misuse of 'Medical Visa*.

Child marriages

† 1833. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that as per the recent surveys conducted by the National Commission for Women group marriages of the girls between the age group of 12 to 14 years are being openly held under the open patronage of senior citizens, local leaders in the States of Bihar, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make law regarding registration of marriage in view of the horriyfing result of child marriage;

(c) if so, by when and the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) The National Commission for Women (NCW) has not carried out any such recent survey. However, NCW had launched the Bal Vivah Virodh Abhiyan, a nationwide awareness programme against child marriages during April-May 2005 with particular focus on the States of Bihar, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.